

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 5 are amended.

Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives by Examiner Lofdahl and Supervisory Patent Examiner Jordan in the December 10, 2002, personal interview. The points discussed are incorporated into the following remarks.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

I. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,222,319 to Yamato (hereinafter "Yamato"); and rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Yamato. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As pointed out to, and agreed by the Examiners in the December 10 personal interview, Yamato does not disclose, teach or suggest a reel seat for a fishing rod comprising, inter alia, a trigger protruding from the lower portion of the circumferential surface of the oblong pipe-shaped body at a fixed position and angle, wherein a center axis of the trigger is non-perpendicular with respect to a center axis of the fishing rod body, as claimed in independent claim 1. Further, as pointed out to, and agreed by the Examiners in the December 10 personal interview, Yamato does not disclose, teach or suggest a fishing rod comprising, inter alia, a trigger protruding from a position opposite to a reel foot placing surface at a fixed position and angle, wherein a center axis of the trigger is non-perpendicular with respect to a center axis of the fishing rod body, as claimed in claim 5.

Instead, Yamato, as shown in Figures 1 and 4, teaches a fishing rod having a conventional trigger 2 having a center axis that is perpendicular (or at a right angle) with

respect to a center axis of the fishing rod body. Further, the front surface of the trigger 2 in Yamato slopes substantially toward the downward and forward direction relative to the body of the fishing rod.

Therefore, Yamato does not disclose, teach or suggest a trigger having the features recited in independent claims 1 and 5.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Yamato does not disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention, as claimed in claims 1-5.

Further, as pointed out to, and agreed to by Examiners in the December 10, 2002, personal interview, the device disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,653,215 to Strader (hereinafter "Strader") also fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention, as claimed in independent claims 1 and 5.

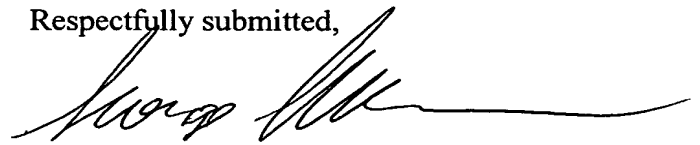
For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 5 are distinguishable over the applied art. Claims 2-4, which depend from claim 1, are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed as well as for additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

For at least the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:GPS/hs

Attachment:
Appendix

Date: December 13, 2002

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<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

The following are marked-up versions of the amended claims:

1. (~~Twice~~Thrice Amended) A reel seat for a fishing rod that includes a fishing rod body ~~and that defines~~ extending in a downward and backward direction comprising:

an oblong pipe-shaped body through which the fishing rod body passes, the oblong pipe-shaped body defining a circumferential surface with a top portion and a lower portion;

a reel foot;

a reel foot placing surface formed on the top portion of the circumferential surface of the oblong pipe-shaped body,

a movable front hood and a fixed rear hood, that attach the reel foot to the reel foot placing surface; and

a trigger protruding from the lower portion of the circumferential surface of the oblong pipe-shaped body at a fixed position and angle, the trigger having a front surface, the front surface of the trigger sloping substantially toward the downward and backward direction relative to a rear end of the lower portion of the circumferential surface of the oblong pipe-shaped body and having a length such that at least two of an average size adult user's fingers can be placed thereon,

wherein a center axis of the trigger is non-perpendicular with respect to a center axis of the fishing rod body.

5. (~~Twice~~Thrice Amended) A fishing rod comprising:

a fishing rod body, ~~that defines~~ extending in a downward and backward direction, on which line guides are mounted;

a reel seat;

a handle that extends backward from a position of the reel seat; and

a trigger protruding from a position opposite to a reel foot placing surface at a fixed position and angle, the trigger having a front surface, the front surface of the trigger sloping substantially downward and backward relative to a rear end of a lower portion of the reel seat and having a length such that at least two of an average size adult user's fingers can be placed thereon

wherein a center axis of the trigger is non-perpendicular with respect to a center axis of the fishing rod body.